



# KSB Wildcat Monthly

April, 2013

Volume 1, Issue 7

## KSB Reaches Out to Students

*By: John Roberts, Director of Instruction*

KSB reached over 700 students so far this year!!!

That's right... KSB has touched the life of 702 students as of January 23. Most people think that KSB is just another school in Louisville; however, what people don't realize is that KSB provides supports and services to students who are blind or visually impaired through all of the various layers of our programs.

So far this year, we have touched the lives of 175 students through our incredible instructional programs. These programs include our center-based program where students attend KSB full time, our Short Term Program where students attend KSB up to 12 weeks a year, our Braille/Low Vision Carnival, the Kentucky Regional Braille Challenge, our summer programs and weekend retreats.

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*KSB Instructor and Coach Bo Mullins, works with students during a goal ball demonstration in Northern Kentucky.*

*KSB Reaches Out to Students, continued from page 1:*

We've touched the lives of 451 students in Kentucky by providing them with books in Braille, large print or providing educational aids.

Our Outreach Consultants across the state have touched the lives of 56 students by providing assistance to their school districts.

Our Low Vision Clinic has provided specialized low vision evaluations on 25 students so far this year.

Our goal is to touch the life of every single child who is blind or visually impaired at least once, and hopefully more, during their educational career.

How fortunate we are in Kentucky to have KSB as our one and only statewide educational resource center... a center that reaches its arms around every child who is blind or visually impaired. It looks like we're well on our way to reaching our goal!



## Jeffries is New Teacher Assistant



**KSB welcomes Carolyn Jeffries!** She is a new teacher assistant working with elementary students. She attended college in state and is a Kentucky native. She brings with her over ten years experience in education.

Jeffries is the mother of two children and is also a foster parent.



*Trimble County student Mason Tilley is one of the students who KSB has reached. At right, he receives guidance from Teacher of the Visually Impaired Pam Gutmann while participating in KSB's Braille Carnival.*



# Percussion Ensemble Performs During Fourth Annual Concert

*By: Bobby Falk, Percussion Instructor*

The Fourth Annual KSB Percussion Ensemble Concert was held on Thurs., March 7. It featured the Wildcat Percussion Ensemble.

Ensemble members **Shane Lowe, Mari Durrett, C.J. Phipps-Gibson, Annmarie Aqua, Shawn Smith** and **Michael Davis** played in front of a lively crowd in Richie Auditorium. The concert was the culmination of six months of work and rehearsing every week. The emphasis of this ensemble is playing as a team, improvising, becoming versatile on all percussion instruments and song forms. All of these skills will serve the student well moving on in life should they decide to pursue a career in music.

Percussion instructor Bobby Falk (on keyboard) performed eight songs ranging from Blue Oyster Cult, Michael Jackson, the Surfaris, Neal Hefti, the Meters, Santana, and more.

Some of the highlights of the show were the "drum battles" on three songs, excellent xylophone solos from Phipps-Gibson and Davis and very impressive navigating from instrument-to-instrument by ensemble members.

Mr. Falk thanks everyone for coming out and for their continued support of the percussion program!



*From left to right Michael Davis and Mari Durrett playing their xylophones in the Fourth Annual KSB Percussion Ensemble Concert held last month in Richie Auditorium.*

# Short Term Weekend Retreat Creates New Connections Beyond Facebook

*By: Robert Williams-Neal, Short Term Teacher*

The Short Term Retreat Weekend took place on March 22-24 and involved 30 middle and high school students from across the state. The theme was ***Beyond Facebook: Making Creative Connections*** which was focused on Social Interaction, one of the components of the Expanded Core Curriculum for students with visual impairments.

Jay Stiteley, Dean of Students at the Tennessee School for the Blind, offered three workshops. The first topic was "Nonverbal Communication." He highlighted the importance of developing skills in this area as essential for successful interaction with persons with normal vision. The second workshop was on the "Three C's to Greater Independence: College, Computers, and Cane-nines." (While college was highlighted, he noted that these tips apply to any post-secondary education or training.) In this presentation he offered a variety of practical tips for being an

independent, self assured individual in an educational institution or the workplace.

The third related workshop, "On Your Mark, Get Set" offered practical tips for maintaining good relationships and effectiveness while at work.

At mid-morning on Sunday the group moved to the professional development room to be part of a teleconference with short term students at the Texas School for the Blind and Visually Impaired. The conversation between the students revolved around responding to questions about the respective schools, music likes and dislikes, and exploration about the differences between the two states. The conference spent some time discussing bullying as experienced by a number of students. This turned out to be a point of deep sharing and discovering that students at both schools faced common realities and challenges.

Other activities included the Amazing Race, based on the television program in which students participated in challenges connected to communication and teamwork. The teams also prepared breads for breakfast on Saturday and planning, shopping for, and preparing food for Sunday brunch. A movie night on Friday, square dancing on Saturday, and bowling at 10 Pin Lanes Sunday afternoon rounded out the event.



*Weekend Retreat participants in Louisville and Austin, TX conversed during a teleconference.*



**Sponsored by KSB Family Support Center and GRREC**

You may attend if you live in the counties of Meade, Daviess, Hancock, Breckinridge, Hardin, McLean, Ohio, Grayson, Larue, Edmonson, Butler, Hart, Green, Taylor, Todd, Logan, Allen, Simpson, Warren, Barren, Monroe, Metcalfe, Cumberland, Clinton, Russell, Adair or Taylor.

**For: Families with Children who are Blind or Visually Impaired.**

**Date: May 11, 2013**

**Location: Hot Rods Ball Park, Bowling Green**

**Time: 5 PM (Central Time)**



**Admission is free!**

- Meet the Hot Rod Mascots
- Get a tour of the ball park before the game
- Fireworks display after the game

**If you would like to attend, contact Family Support Specialist Mitch Dahmke**

**502-897-1583 ex.221**

# **Family Night at the Ballpark!**

**Bowling Green Hot Rods**





## March Extra Mile Award Recipient Charity Woolums



Charity Woolums, the newest residential staff member, was recognized for going beyond her job duties and enhancing the lives of students. She volunteers as a Cub Scout leader and Boy Scout assistant leader at KSB. She also volunteers to come in early to creatively decorate dorms and the lobby in Evans Hall.

Dorm Supervisor Pat Mohon, states "She has stepped up and is a great role model mainly for the elementary and middle school girls. She creates projects for the girls, teaches daily living skills and enjoys teaching cooking, kitchen utilization and socialization."

*Congrat's Mrs. Woolums!*



***"The Only Disability in Life  
is a Bad Attitude"***

*Matthew Jeffers*

### Upcoming Events

- April 9-10:** Low Vision Clinic in Princeton, KY
- April 12-13:** Swim and Forensics at OH School f/t Blind
- April 26-27:** NCASB Swim and Forensics Meet at TN School f/t Blind
- April 26-27:** Boy Scouts/Venture Crew Weekend Trip
- May 2:** Stage 1 Primary Field Trip (Charlotte's Web)
- May 3:** No School
- May 6-10:** Teacher Appreciation Week
- May 7:** SBDM Meeting, 4-5 PM
- May 9:** KSB Founder's Day



## Staff Participate in KAER Conference

*By: Paula Penrod, KIMRC Program Coordinator*

Twelve KSB staff members attended the Kentucky Chapter of the Association of the Education of the Blind and Visually Impaired (KAER) State Conference that was held March 13-15 at Lake Barkley in Cadiz. The conference theme was Kentucky AER Corral: Rounding Up Rehabilitation and Education Professionals. Several staff members participated in pre-conference workshops on social skills/ability awareness and/or orientation/mobility session presented by Guiding Eyes.

Featured keynote speakers were Clifford Kuhn, M.D., Professor of Psychiatry at the UofL School of Medicine; Jim Durst, Superintendent of the Indiana School for the Blind. Durst gave a wonderful background on education of the blind and where it is headed.

During the banquet on Thursday evening, KAER presented the Touching Lives Award to Owen Shrader, KSB Braillewriter Repair Volunteer. Shrader was unable to attend the conference and a formal presentation of the award will be made during KSB's Founder's Day Celebration on May 9.

Attending the conference were John Roberts, Claudia Godbey, Kristen Hammond, Paula Penrod, Nolan Hulsey, Pam Howard, Wendy Strode-Ross, Patty Dilg, Beth Bohannon-Baker, Kenny Jones, Teri, Ritchie and Verna Howell.



*At the podium, Director of Instruction John Roberts delivers an update about KSB, the Statewide Educational Resource Center on Blindness, during the KAER State Conference in March.*



# **APPLICATIONS NOW BEING ACCEPTED**

**Application Deadline is May 1**

## Save the Date!

Kentucky School for the  
Blind

Summer Enrichment  
Program



Registration—Sunday, June 16<sup>th</sup>

Sessions start Monday, June 17<sup>th</sup>  
through

Friday, June 28<sup>th</sup>

For more information contact Claudia Godbey  
or John Roberts at 502-897-1583



**PSSO is holding a 50/50 Raffle  
From April 1 -May 21  
Prize to be Given Away  
After Spring Concert**

**Tickets  
1 for \$1  
6 for \$5**



**See any PSSO  
member to  
purchase tickets**

**GIGANTIC SALE!**

**The Video Yearbook is on sale.**

**AVAILABLE NOW For ONLY \$7**

**Over 50 copies have been sold.**

**The person who buys the 75<sup>th</sup> and 100<sup>th</sup>  
yearbook will get it free.**



**If you would like  
one, please make your check  
payable to KSB. If you would  
like our two for \$11 deal,  
please order before April 15.**

# Operation Preparation Activities Roll On

*By: Elaine Hall, Guidance Counselor*

What's next?

What do students need to think about after high school? Those questions have been a big point of discussion during March.

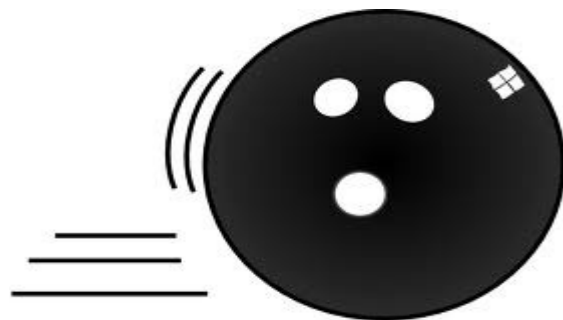
We started our Operation Preparation activities with community partners advising our 8<sup>th</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> grade students.

Thank you to the **American Printing House for the Blind (APH)** volunteers for giving so generously of your time.

**Thank you to Gary Mudd, Ken Perry, Tristan Pierce and Kate Herndon.**

Aside from teachers and parents, it is invaluable for students to hear from others that the skills that they work on are really important.

We then moved to middle school and took many middle and high school students to the University of Louisville campus. They were able to hear from the **U of L Disabilities Resource Director Bob Blake** and then they toured the campus. We have taken many students on college campus tours in the last two years, and I wish all friends and family could see and hear the excitement that an actual tour brings about. Each time we go to a different campus — I have students that are ready to commit to that actual school right on the spot. (It changes after each visit). It is wonderful to open their eyes and thinking to new possibilities. We started with middle school students this year so they can actually start to realize that yet again all the things we work on in school really do carry over to life outside of KSB.



*Sixth grade students (from left to right) Michael Davis, Heather Anthony, Alex Stine, and Taryn Seif visit the UofL campus and show their Cardinal Spirit during Operation Preparation activities!*

Finally, we had our elementary schools turn! We took our elementary students to **LC Industries** to introduce the idea of manufacturing. Many times, career exploration is all about exposure to new ideas and concepts. We just want our young students to learn there are MANY different ways they can share their time and talents.

LC Industries is located behind KSB on Brownsboro Rd. They are a company that manufactures items for military personnel. Right now they assemble the dinnerware packets that hold forks, knives, napkins, etc.—that are found at all picnics and restaurants. These are assembled on an

assembly line—so students were able to tour the line and see the inside of the factory. The goal was to get students thinking about how all things are made, and that items don't just appear in front of us in this ready fashion without some behind the scenes work. Teamwork and social skills were on clear display.



*Elementary students and their teachers toured LC Industries during Operation Preparation activities.*

With **Lowe's Building Supply** as a partner, students that toured LC Industries put what they learned into practice. They manufactured small garden/seed holders to grow plants. These kits, along with aprons and hammers, were provided by Lowe's.

**I want to thank Tom at Lowe's, Hurstbourne Parkway, and Debbie Petit, Plant Manager at LC Industries.** Both were wonderful education partners! It is our goal to help all KSB students know that they have talents to share and to help them prepare for "What's Next!"



*Third grade student Hayden Ashley investigates how the sewing machine works with his teacher Karen Sutton at LC Industries.*





***KSB Congratulates Third Quarter Honor Roll Students***

**All A's**

**Shane Lowe**

**A's and B's**

**Safira Bibi, Tatiana Carroll, Kyle Givens, Jacob Hack,  
Allie Irvin, Amanda Livers, Taryn Seif,  
Alex Stine, Selena Tirey, Kayla Voskuhl,  
and Elijah Wegner**

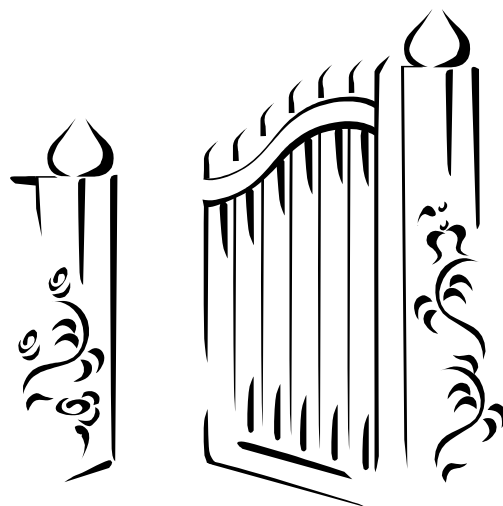
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**Mark Your Calendar:**

**July 23-24, 2013**

**Gateways to Independence  
Professional Development  
Opportunity for Kentucky  
Teachers of the Visually Impaired**

*Registration information to be sent soon!*



**1867 Frankfort Avenue  
Louisville, KY 40206  
502-897-1583  
Fax: 502-897-2850**

**Statewide Educational Resource  
Center on Blindness**

***Serving Kentucky Students Who are Blind  
and Visually Impaired  
Since 1842***